

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the August 6th 1904.

CONTENTS.

Page.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The Russo-Japanese war ...	717
The Tibet war ...	ib.
The Tibet war ...	ib.
The alleged plunder of monasteries in Tibet ...	ib.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police—

Dacoities at Manirampur in Jessore ...	718
A complaint against the Sub-Inspector of Police at Bongong in Jessore ...	ib.
A contradiction ...	ib.
Levy of a tax for chaukidars' dresses ...	719
A complaint against Mr. Simpson, District Superintendent of Police, Barisal ...	ib.
A new police outpost for Chikandi in Madaripur ...	ib.
The Kabuli nuisance ...	ib.
The Kabuli nuisance ...	ib.

(b)—Working of the Courts—

The Subdivisional Magistrate of Chandpur ...	720
The Bench Clerk of the first Munsif's Court at Chandpur ...	ib.
Mr. W. B. Brown, District Judge of Tippera ...	ib.
A Sub-Deputy Magistrate of Berhampur ...	ib.
How the survey and settlement papers are treated by the Courts in the Backergunge district ...	ib.

(c)—Jails—

Nil.

(d)—Education—

The Education Department and the Bengali language ...	721
The Barisal Zilla School ...	ib.
The Khulna District School ...	ib.
The Campbell Medical School affair ...	ib.
The Campbell Medical School affair ...	722
The question of Government purchasing the Hill House in Bankura town ...	ib.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—

Proposed grant by the Backergunge District Board in aid of local water-works ...	722
Complaints of water-scarcity ...	723
The cattle-pound at Bagnan ...	ib.

(f)—Questions affecting the land—

Mr. Carey and the khas mahals of the Murshidabad district ...	723
---	-----

Page.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—

Accumulation of water in the Midnapore district ...	723
Wanted the repair of an embankment in the Midnapore district ...	ib.
The recent accident on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway ...	724
Inconveniences on the Assam-Bengal Railway ...	ib.
The Asansol outrage case ...	ib.
The Asansol outrage case ...	ib.
A railway complaint ...	ib.
Railway complaints ...	725
A railway complaint ...	ib.
Complaints against the East Indian Railway ...	ib.
State of the roads in the 24-Parganas district ...	726
A contradiction ...	ib.
The Kunjapur khal ...	ib.

(h)—General—

Complaint against a Joint Sub-Registrar ...	727
Mr. Rankin, District Magistrate of Dacca ...	ib.
How the people are faring ...	ib.
Proposed splitting up of the Mymensingh district ...	728
Suggested extension of the Gambling Act to Mymensingh ...	ib.
Exclusion of natives from the next examination for admission into the Opium Department ...	ib.
The superior claims of an Indian alleged to be ignored ...	ib.
Partiality as regards appointment to the Government service ...	729
A complaint against the Superintendent of the Government Central Press at Calcutta ...	ib.
The Superintendent of the Burma Government Press ...	ib.
The Lieutenant-Governor's visit to Chittagong ...	730
The experimental farm near Chittagong town ...	ib.
Complaint against the sadar post office of Chittagong ...	ib.
The proposed road-cess revaluation in Chittagong ...	ib.
Mr. Marindin, Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division ...	ib.
The proposed transfer of the head-quarters of the Rajshahi Commissioner ...	731
The new mining rules ...	ib.
Special pension to Babu Chandra Nath Bose, late Bengali Translator to Government ...	732
Need of a hospital at Asansol ...	ib.
The case of Mr. Rolt ...	ib.
The Lieutenant-Governor and the disarmament of the Backergunge district ...	ib.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Suggestions for the amendment of Act VIII of 1885 ...	732
---	-----

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

The British Government and the Tippera Raj ...	733
--	-----



## V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

The overflowing of the Damodar ... 733

## VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The question of the improvement of native arts and commerce ... 733  
 Lord Curzon's Guildhall speech ... 734  
 A suit against the Nawab of Dacca ... 735  
 "The English have found us out" ... *ib.*

## URIYA PAPERS.

The Mansingpatna dacoity case ... 735  
 The Committee of the Orissa Association ... *ib.*  
 Lord Curzon on Indians in high posts ... 736  
 A donation to the Beadon Madrassa at Balasore ... *ib.*  
 The health of Cuttack town ... *ib.*  
 The rain ... *ib.*

## URIYA PAPERS—concl'd.

Cattle plague in the Jajpur subdivision ... 736  
 Theft and dacoity in some villages in the Cuttack district ... *ib.*  
 A breach in the embankment of the Kathjuri river ... *ib.*  
 The floods in the Suvarnarekha and Chitai rivers ... *ib.*  
 Relief to sufferers from flood ... *ib.*  
 The Maharaja of A ayurbhanj's donation to the Beadon Madrassa at Balasore ... 737  
 The death of a pious and charitable Uriya lady mourned ... *ib.*

## ASSAM PAPERS.

Publication of part of the *Assam Gazette* in Bengali 737  
 A railway complaint ... *ib.*  
 Complaint against the Overseer of Karimganj ... *ib.*  
 The Sunamganj Jubilee High School ... *ib.*  
 Complaint against the Sub-Inspector of Schools at Karimganj ... 738



## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 26th July has the following:—

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,  
July 26th, 1904.

The Russo-Japanese war.

The English are the friends of the Japanese. But they never had the remotest idea that the Russians would be so severely handled by the Japanese. The English perhaps thought that Japan would be defeated and humiliated, and Russia, too, would be prostrated in the war, and that such a result would be to their advantage, and that if Japan were threatened with destruction, they would save her from the jaws of ruin. But whoever thought that the reverse would happen? There is a class of Englishmen who are alarmed at the prowess of Japan. Some among the retired Indian Civilians have taken the lead in this matter, and the names of Messrs. Skrine and Lyall are prominently associated with it. They apprehend that the defeat of a European nation by Japan would bring about the loss of India to the English. These Englishmen would like to see India grow weaker and weaker. They wish that the Asiatics should ever remain the slaves of Europeans and Asia should be treated as a land of slaves.

What shall we say to all these? We are poor, weak, and devoid of any worth; it is all the same whether we say anything or not. It would appear as if we were born only to be hurled into the depths of misery. But it is an immutable law that those who try to weaken the strong and to further weaken those who are already weak, also become weak themselves. In proposing to prevent the cause of future apprehension they betray their own weakness.

2. The same paper says that to indulge in professions of peace has become a fashion with European Sovereigns. The Tsar

TRIPURA HITAIISHI.

The Tibet war.

of Russia was the foremost in this respect, and it was through his endeavours that the Peace Conference was established. But it is no exaggeration to say that the Tsar himself brought about the present war with Japan. If he had acted with moderation, Manchuria would not have been deluged with blood. Again, our Emperor, Edward VII, is uttering words of peace. His Majesty has publicly declared that he wishes to establish peace in the world. Is then the massacre in Tibet the outcome of His Imperial Majesty's peace proposals?

3. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 28th July, in criticising Lord Curzon's Guildhall speech, remarks:—

SANJIVANI,  
July 28th, 1904.

The Tibet war.

His Lordship has declared that he would civilize the Tibetans, put an end to anarchy and intrigue in their country, and establish friendly relations between India and Tibet, but the British soldiers, it seems, have already begun to carry out those schemes. The *Statesman* hears and the *Englishman* corroborates the story that British soldiers have commenced looting in Tibet and are filling the Gyantse fort with the spoils. One can easily conjecture that the British soldiers, when they enter Lhasa, will plunder all the valuable and curious articles that have been collected there for centuries. Does that civilization, which Lord Curzon proposes to introduce into Tibet, mean that it is no sin to rob other people of their belongings? After the British soldiers have carried away the valuable things from Tibet, His Lordship will address the Tibetans thus: "Behold, how we love thee!"

4. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th July says that it is with the object of enriching the British Museum and other museums with at least a portion of the valuable documents, manuscripts, and other objects of historical and

HITAVADI,  
July 29th, 1904.

The alleged plunder of monasteries in Tibet.

archæological importance that now lie hidden in Tibet that Government has made provision for purchasing such articles. But what is deeply to be regretted is that the *maths* (monasteries) in Tibet are being plundered by the English. It would be barbarous on the part of the English Government to wink at this sort of plundering. A hope is expressed that steps will at once be taken to put a stop to such a scandalous thing.



## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

JASOHAR,  
July 13th, 1904.

5. The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 13th July refers to the outrages committed by dacoits in village Kusarkona, thana Manirampur, in the district of Jessore. Recently they set fire to the houses of Babus Giris Chandra Ghosh and Chandranath Deb, two respectable inhabitants of the village. Some of these dacoits have recently been committed to prison, but the other dacoits who are still at large, have vowed dire vengeance on these who were instrumental in bringing their brethren to justice. The villagers have come to such a pass that unless they are soon relieved of their terror, they will be obliged to quit their ancestral homes. An inquiry on the spot by the District Superintendent of Police may perhaps lead to some effectual remedy being applied. It is said that a Deputy Magistrate from Jessore will soon go to try all cases brought under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code. But the villagers have been so much terrorised by the dacoits that there is not much hope of their coming forward to give evidence.

JASOHAR,  
July 20th, 1904.

6. A correspondent of the *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 20th July draws attention to a case which is typical of the ways of the police in this country. Babu Asutosh Singha is a respectable trader at Bongong in Jessore. He had allowed street-sweepings and other refuse to accumulate for some days near his shop. On the 14th July last, Babu Nepal Chandra Hazra, the newly appointed Sub-Inspector of Police, appeared at his shop and threatened to prosecute him under Act V unless he quickly got the place cleansed. Without giving him time to get together the men necessary for this purpose the Sub-Inspector told Asutosh Babu to accompany him to the thana. Asu Babu agreed to go, but asked for some little time, as he could not leave his shop in the disarranged condition it was then in. The Sub-Inspector would not, however, brook the least delay. He immediately dragged Asu Babu out of the shop by his *charlar* and sent him to the thana in the custody of a constable, and all this time the police officer was not in his uniform. The question now is What authority had this policeman to insult a respectable citizen in this way? And why was he not in his uniform when discharging a public duty? Is the simple explanation of all this to be found in the statement that the police are above all law? What is worse, this officer on one occasion received a watch, chain, etc., as rewards for meritorious work. It may be that he is an able officer, but who will explain why he should not be prosecuted for his disgraceful behaviour on this occasion? There are many other things against this particular officer which may, if necessary, be brought to light later on. Asu Babu has brought a case in the Court of the Subdivisional Magistrate, but as Nepal Babu is a favourite with the higher authorities, it is said that the Subdivisional Magistrate is doubtful about admitting the case at all.

PALLIVASI,  
July 27th, 1904.

7. A correspondent of the *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 27th July publishes a contradiction of the allegations made against Gholam Ahmed Mian, the collecting panchayet of Nowpara, in a previous issue (Report on Native Papers of the 18th June 1904, paragraph 3):—

(1) As regards the statement that the collecting panchayet has selected an assistant panchayet of his own. This is false. The choice of assistant panchayets rests with the police, and finally with the Magistrate, and moreover the panchayets in the Union spoken of are all men of position in their localities.

(2) Gholam Ahmed Mian conducts his assessments impartially and justly, and everybody in the village is satisfied with his work. The police officers themselves have often said that he is the best panchayet in the thana.

(3) The panchayet is held in such estimation by his fellow-villagers that he is often chosen to act as arbitrator in disputes among them. Such a man is not likely to be a habitual bribe taker. In fact, he has in many cases spent money out of his own pocket to make up disputes.

(4) The inquiry in the case of Madorsa Hosani Chowdhury and Lahan Shekh was conducted by all the panchayets jointly. The collecting panchayet was merely one of them.



8. A correspondent of the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 27th July says that collecting panchayets in the Garhbeta subdivision of the Midnapore district realise a separate tax for chaukidars' dresses. But as there is no fixed rate at which this additional tax is to be levied, the panchayet fixes the assessments according to his own desire. The editor asks if Government has only recently ordered the levy of the additional tax.

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
July 27th, 1904.

9. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 27th July complains that Mr. Simpson, the Local District Superintendent of Police, is unduly strict on his subordinates. Everybody, from the Inspector to the petty chaukidar, is made to feel his presence. The need of strict supervision in the Police Department is undeniable, but there is a limit to everything. Mr. Simpson has passed this limit, and his supervision as now exercised only does harm. His subordinates are in constant terror, and dare do nothing on their own initiative. It would not matter if wrong-doing was visited with punishment. The mischief is done where a man, who is innocent of any fault, is punished, or where the punishment is quite disproportionate to the offence. Where the latter is the rule, one cannot expect people to do their duty fearlessly and at ease. Yet this is the pass to which the local police has been reduced by Mr. Simpson. There is no counting the number of men who have been dismissed, or suspended, or otherwise punished during Mr. Simpson's régime.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,  
July 27th, 1904.

10. The *Santi* [Madaripur] of the 30th July points out the urgent need of opening a new police outpost at Chikandi. A case is given which shows what happens for want of such an outpost. Babu Chandra Kanta Guha, a respectable man, had occasion to go to Chikandi as a witness in a civil suit going on between two rival families in Dhanuka. While returning by boat in the evening with eight or ten other people he was waylaid and severely assaulted by two Musalman ruffians. His fellow-passengers after exhibiting his bleeding and senseless body to the Munsifs and the vakils sent information of the occurrence to the Palang thana. But the police refused to do anything. This is not the only occurrence of its kind near Chikandi. No inhabitant of Faridpur need be reminded of the ear-cutting case of the naib of Binodpur or of the murder of another naib. Even the Munsifs were molested on one occasion when they had come to Chikandi to attend a *jatra* party.

SANTI,  
July 30th, 1904.

11. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 31st July observes that the outrages committed by Kabulis on the helpless people of Bengal are daily becoming intolerable. The High Court Judges have recently sent up the papers regarding the Kalacherra dacoity case to the Government of India, to see if Government can do anything to abate the nuisance. The police are quite unable to cope with these Kabulis. Wherever they go, they take care to go in companies. Their physique inspires terror, and their temper is exceedingly rough and violent. The very sight of them makes the Bengalis tremble. They have formed important settlements at Dum-Dum, Baidyabati, Naihati and other places. A searching inquiry into this question is necessary.

RANGALAY,  
July 31st, 1904.

12. Referring to the recent judgment of the High Court in the Kalacherra dacoity case, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 31st July observes :—

DAILY HITAVADI  
July 31st, 1904.

The Judges have not contented themselves with merely confirming the sentences already passed on the offenders (except in one case). They have also called the attention of the Government of India to this case, and requested them to devise some remedy for the oppressions committed by Kabulis. We trust the Government will do something. Kabulis should not be allowed to enter any part of British India without a pass, and the police should have special orders to keep an eye on their movements. If Government can do these things it will have earned the eternal gratitude of the Bengali people.



## (b)—Working of the Courts.

PRATINIDHI,  
July 20th, 1904.

13. A correspondent of the *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 20th July complains of the conduct of the Subdivisional Officer of Chandpur. Owing to his utter ignorance of the Bengali language he has to ask his peshkar to translate the evidence of petitioners. He keeps his file clear by constantly resorting to section 203 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

At the time of examination of witnesses he does not allow the mukhtars freely to ask questions. Another subject of complaint has reference to the postponement fees. The defendant is compelled to pay any sum, however ruinous, named by the plaintiff, before the Subdivisional Officer agrees to grant a postponement. All this leads to constant failure of justice. The rowdy elements of the population find an encouragement in this, and though all is quiet on the surface, there is a strong feeling of discontent lurking in the minds of the people.

What is more, this officer does not attend Court at the regular hours. Sometimes he comes in at 1 o'clock, rapidly disposes of a few cases in an hour or so, and then leaves the Court. He comes in again at about 4 o'clock and disposes of the other business remaining. His attitude all this time is such as to discourage the pleaders and mukhtars from arguing their cases in full before him.

PRATINIDHI.

The Bench Clerk of the first  
Munsif's Court at Chandpur.

14. The same paper regrets that complaints against the Bench Clerk of the first Munsif's Court at Chandpur are getting more and more frequent.

TRIPURA HITAI SHI,  
July 26th, 1904.

15. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 26th July says that Mr. W. B. Brown, District Judge of Tippera, has given satisfaction to the public by the method he is following in doing his work. He is very expert in judicial work, understands cases very easily, and is very careful to see that justice is done. He can dispose of cases very quickly. The writer hopes that he will be made permanent in Comilla.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
July 27th, 1904.

16. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 27th July complains of the arrogance and discourtesy of Babu Abani Nath Chatterji, the Sub-Deputy Magistrate of Berhampur. He refuses to recognise Civil Court decrees. Raja Jogendra Narayan Roy of Lalgola is, in all public correspondence, addressed in such respectful and honorific terms as *স্বাইবেন*, *করিবেন*, etc. But Abani Babu has issued a summons, a copy of which is published, in his name, in which the Raja has been addressed as *স্বাইবে*, *করিবে*, etc. Besides this, he has been ordered to attend the Court personally. The Raja has his authorised agent at Berhampur. Can he not represent the Raja in the Sub-Deputy Magistrate's Court? Every Raja or zamindar is represented by his agent in the law-court. It is therefore to be regretted that Raja Jogendra Narayan should be treated in this way. It is rumoured that the Sub-Deputy Magistrate has issued similar summonses in the name of many other persons of high position. Again, the summons in the name of Raja Jogendra Narayan was issued on the 23rd and hung up on the 24th July last, and in it the Raja was ordered to appear in the Court on the 25th. How the distance of 40 or 44 miles could be traversed in one day is inconceivable.

KASIPUR NIVASI,  
July 27th, 1904.

17. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 27th July writes as follows:—

How the survey and settlement  
papers are treated by the Courts  
in the Backergunge district.

Since the commencement of the survey and settlement of the Backergunge district disputes regarding the possession of lands are being settled by the local Criminal Courts by a reference to the settlement *parchas*, etc. But the Civil Courts place no reliance on such papers on the ground that they cannot be admitted as evidence before the work of settlement is finished. This conflict of opinion between the Civil and Criminal Courts is giving rise to grave inconveniences and hardship. It is inconceivable why the Criminal Courts recognise the *parchas*, etc., before the work of settlement has been completed. Many people are unjustly suffering imprisonment in consequence of this. Some time ago the Survey Office



connected with the settlement work was removed to Dacca. Now, the Deputy Magistrates of Backergunge invariably require the production of settlement records in every case of land-dispute before they consent to issue processes. But copies of such records have now to be brought from Dacca, and great delay occurs in this. A certain litigant applied for such a copy on the 6th June last and he received it on the 17th July following. Extraordinary delays are made in the Survey Office at Dacca in complying with applications for copies. On the other hand, the Criminal Courts show great reluctance in postponing cases for more than 15 days, and in many cases they are dismissed under section 203 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

(d)—Education.

18. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 26th July observes:—

The Education Department and the Bengali language.

It is impossible adequately to describe the evil days on which the Bengali tongue has fallen. We think the authorities of the Education Department treat its claims with disrespect. The books which are being selected as text-books for native schoolboys display an amount of ignorance of the language, which is enough to draw a smile even from an illiterate Bengali. The people are grieved to see the very persons whose duty it is to impart sound education indirectly fostering unsound education. We hope the educational authorities will soon bestir themselves to remove this great reproach on their fair fame.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
July 29th, 1904.

19. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 27th July observes that the Lieutenant-Governor expressed his satisfaction at the present condition of the Zilla School. It is really

The Barisal Zilla School.

a fact that the school is much better now than it was before. Both its finances and the number of its students have improved. Still there is much that remains to be done before it can claim to be a model of its kind. And at the sadar station of each district there should be a model school for the village schools to imitate. The present defects in the working of the school will not be easily removed under its native management. Complete reform can only be hoped for if Government takes it into its own hands again. Government can offer no objection to such a change, as the reason why it gave up the management of the school was the bad state of its finances, and its finances have now improved. The District Board should move Government to this effect.

BARISAL HITAIISHI  
July 27th, 1904

20. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 28th July attributes the bad results at this year's examination of the local District High School to two causes: (1) the results are generally very bad

The Khulna District School.

this year, irrespective of particular schools; (2) the methods of teaching obtaining in the lower classes are extremely unsatisfactory. Some of the lower class teachers do absolutely no work in the course of the whole day. They justify their neglect of their duties by saying that they have been accustomed to act like this all along. The Head-Master should not tolerate such excuses. It is needless to speak of the efficiency of a school, when out of twenty-one candidates it sends up for examination, five only pass. The nature of the text-books taught in the lower classes requires a better class of teachers than the existing one, more zealous and better fitted for their work.

KHULNA,  
July 28th, 1904.

21. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 31st July reports that about three hundred students of the Campbell Medical School in Calcutta have ceased to attend the school. The

The Campbell Medical School affair.

dispute between the boys and the school authorities owes its origin to the plucking of a rose by one of the former. Whatever the cause, the fact remains that the students have ceased to attend their classes. They have taken this step with a full knowledge of its consequences. They know that their scholarships will be stopped, they will have to pay fines, and some perhaps will find their future educational career altogether closed. The students will therefore be the greatest sufferers. Why then should they do this mad thing? When students get out of hand one usually lays the blame at the door of the teachers. Why should an exception be made in this case? The students have actually telegraphed to the Lieutenant-Governor praying for a sifting inquiry. It is clear that the authorities of the school are at fault. There have been many complaints made against the Superintendent.

RANGALAY,  
July 31st 1904.



DAILY HITAVADI,  
August 3rd, 1904.

He is inefficient and oppressive and should be removed. As the matter is now in the hands of the Lieutenant-Governor the public may hope for justice.

22. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 3rd August mentions the causes which led the students of the Campbell Medical School to leave it in a body on the 27th July last. A student was taken to task by a durwan for plucking a rose from a tree in the school compound. The durwan in explaining that the plucking of flowers was against the orders of Mr. Carlton, the Deputy Superintendent of the hospital, used abusive language, and a female servant actually slapped a student on the cheek. When on the next day the matter was brought to the notice of the Superintendent, that officer without making any enquiry dealt out different degrees of punishment to the students concerned, who were thus condemned unheard. Some had their scholarships forfeited, others were fined and punished in other ways.

Apart from the merits of this present complaint, the following charges are made against Mr. Carlton which demand inquiry:—

- (1) In spite of a written notice that no dogs are to be allowed within the hospital compound, Mr. Carlton's dogs are freely allowed to roam over the grounds. A student was once bitten by one of these dogs. He was compelled for this reason to absent himself from his class for a day, and informed the Superintendent of the fact. He was rebuked and fined by the Superintendent for his pains.
- (2) A student once put up a notice on one of the trees in the hospital compound about the sale of the skeleton he used in his study of anatomy. The Deputy Superintendent told him that the hospital was not his (the student's) father's property. It is inconceivable that a man of his station in his disputes with his students should drag their fathers' names in.
- (3) A student asking for leave for such urgent private affairs as marriage or the performance of *sradh* is told to wait till the Christmas or Puja holidays for the celebration of those events.
- (4) It is a rule to *salaam* the Deputy Superintendent on all occasions. Even casual failure to observe this rule is taken severe notice of.

BANKURA DARPAN,  
August 1st, 1904.

23. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 1st August thanks the Wesleyan Mission for having established a college in Bankura town and for purchasing the local Hill House to supply the want of accommodation from which it suffers. But Government has proposed to re-purchase the house from the missionaries in order to turn it into officers' quarters. Government is prayed to desist from this purpose, because there is no other house in the town which will serve the purposes of the college as well as the Hill House and because Government will find enough land in the European quarter of the town on which to construct officers' quarters. The opening of B.A. classes in connection with the college was contemplated after the purchase of the Hill house by the worthy missionaries.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,  
July 27th, 1904.

24. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 27th July expresses its strong disapproval of the proposal of the local District Board to spend Rs. 50,000 on the construction of water-works for the town of Barisal. The Lieutenant-Governor should not have accorded his sanction to the proposed expenditure. On whose advice, on what considerations of duty, and on the authority of what law do the Board make this display of their generosity? Whence comes this sudden eagerness to supply pure drinking water to the townspeople? Who advised them to make this gift? There are many villages in the district where the people are put to the greatest straits for the want of drinking water. They are, it seems, to be left to their fate and the money is to go to minister to the luxuries of the townspeople?



By what considerations of justice is this to be explained? Adequate arrangements for medical relief are still a want in the rural tracts of the country. The Board, it is true, maintains thirty-five dispensaries, but are they sufficient for the needs of the whole district? There are still many villages where even cholera patients die without any treatment whatsoever. And even these few dispensaries are not properly equipped with medicines and other appliances. What is necessary therefore is that more dispensaries should be opened, and more complete stocks of medicines supplied; and tanks should be dug in every village. Until these absolute necessities are relieved, the District Board has no right to make unsolicited grants for the benefit of the sadar town. The public should protest against this action of the Board.

25. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 30th July publishes complaints of water-scarcity from the following places:—

Complaints of water-scarcity.

Kursa, Mahiganj, in Rangpur; Amdahi, Kotalpur, in Bankura; Ulail, Manikganj; Raghunathpur, Santipur, in Nadia; Harki, Gidhui, in Midnapore; Dighi, Nakasipara, in Nadia; Batla, Santipur, in Nadia; Samandi, Bijur, in Burdwan; Sajiara, Dumuria, in Khulna; Morakari, Kandauk, in Tippera; Haripur, Santipur, in Nadia; Balbhadrapur, Dantan, in Midnapore; Naiti, Haripal, in Hooghly; Alakpur, Brahmanbaria, in Tippera; Gayespur, Bolpur, in Birbhum.

BANGAVASI;  
July 30th, 1904.

26. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 30th July complains of the condition of the cattle-pound at Bagnan in the

The cattle-pound at Bagnan.

Howrah district. No adequate shelter is provided

for the impounded cattle. The roof is composed of two cross pieces of bamboo with some three or four palm leaves carelessly thrown on them. This, of course, is not sufficient to keep out either rain or the sun's rays. The pound inspector pays his visits regularly, but apparently does not report to the higher authorities. The police-station is situated very near to the pound, but the police officers wilfully shut their eyes and ears.

HOWRAH  
HITAISHI,  
July 30th, 1904.

(f).—Questions affecting the land.

27. The *Pratihar* [Berhampore] of the 29th July says that if the orders

Mr. Carey and the khas mahals of the Murshidabad district.

of Mr. Carey, the late District Collector of Murshidabad, regarding the enhancement of rents in the khas mahals of the district are carried out,

the khas mahal raiyats will be simply ruined. Babu Chandra Nath Ghosh and Babu Bijoy Krishna Ganguli, late Settlement Officers of the district, had assessed their rents on a just and reasonable basis after considering all the circumstances bearing on the subject. But Mr. Carey has set asides the decisions of these officers. If his orders are carried out, the rents will be doubled and the raiyats will be ruined. They have consequently been greatly alarmed.

PRATIHAR,  
July 28th, 1904.

(g).—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

28. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 27th July says that nearly

Accumulation of water in the Midnapore district.

half of the Midnapore district is very low and in every rainy season this low land is turned into a lake. Every year the Midnapore people cry for

its drainage, but to no effect. The loss that is in consequence done to them is incalculable. Will not Government give an ear to their cries and prayers?

29. The same paper says that the embankment of the Cossye near

Wanted the repair of an embankment in the Midnapore district.

Magradaha and south of the Singargarh village within the Kutubpur pargana of the Midnapore district has given way in consequence of the

present flood in the river, causing great loss to the Singargarh, Bhabanipur, Darkhala, Durlavchak, Patna, Hanumandihi and the neighbouring villages. Delay in repairing the embankment will prove ruinous to agriculture and cause famine in this part of the district.

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
July 27th, 1904.

MEDINI BANDHAV.



SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA,  
July 27th, 1904.

30. Referring to the recent accident on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 27th July observes that there are still many rumours afloat as to the number of persons killed or wounded on that occasion. People still doubt if the truth has come out. The authorities should see that these doubts are laid at rest. Whenever a railway accident occurs the nearest Magistrate should be first informed of the occurrence. He should visit the spot personally and count up the number of the dead, wounded, and living. He should also take down the evidence of the other wounded or uninjured who were in the particular train. Thus the total number of killed, wounded, and uninjured passengers would be ascertained beyond a doubt. Then, again, the number of tickets issued from stations up to the particular scene of the accident to stations below the line may easily be ascertained from the Company's books. If there is any discrepancy in the total number of passengers travelling, as ascertained by these two methods, the Company should be called on to explain it. By the adoption of this double system of check, the approximate number of killed and wounded may easily be ascertained, though slight differences may still remain. Government should give this suggestion a trial.

JYOTI,  
July 28th, 1904.

31. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 28th July says that in the address which the Chittagong People's Association gave to the Lieutenant-Governor on the occasion of his recent visit to Chittagong town, the redress of some railway grievances was prayed for. In reply to this His Honour said to the effect that the Association asked for too many things which it was not in the power of the new Railway Company to give all at once. Perhaps this reply was suggested to His Honour by the Company itself. It would have been better if His Honour had given a list of the things which were asked by the people, together with a list of the things which the Company had given in compliance with their wishes. The age of the Railway Company is 12 years, but within this long period it has found no opportunity to construct waiting-rooms even in such big stations on the line as Sitakund, etc. No arrangements have been made for supplying inter-class carriages for respectable Indians. There is no platform in the Sitakund station. The want of a good hotel at the Chandpur station is greatly felt by the passengers on the line.

HITAVADI,  
July 29th, 1904.

32. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th July is glad to learn that the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal ordered the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division to institute an enquiry into the Asansol railway outrage case. But the finding of the Commissioner in the matter is extremely unsatisfactory. He dismisses the case with the remark that the accused guards did not deliberately make the assault, that no complaint has been made against them, and that the railway authorities have sufficiently punished them. Evidence ought to have been taken and enquiries made publicly as to whether the assault was accidental or intentional. Indian women are very unwilling to go to law in cases like the above. The punishment which the delinquents received at the hands of their official superiors was nothing compared with the offence they had committed. The Lieutenant-Governor is prayed to have a sifting enquiry instituted into the case, and the guards adequately punished.

HITAVARTA,  
July 31st, 1904.

33. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 31st July says that the report on the Asansol outrage case submitted to Government by the Commissioner of Burdwan is not at all satisfactory. The Commissioner, it seems, is biased in favour of the accused guards, who are his co-religionists. It is to be hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will be pleased to make a thorough inquiry into the case and inflict a severe punishment upon the offenders.

ULUBERIA DARPAN,  
July 30th, 1904.

34. The *Ulubaria Darpan* [Ulubaria] of the 30th July publishes the following in English:—  
A railway complaint. The want of a railway platform at Fuleswar station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway is one of the crying grievances of the railway travelling public. The sufferings of the people due to the want of a railway platform in Fuleswar are so great that they can be better imagined than described. The two footboards attached to the sides of a railway



carriage, which serve like the steps of a staircase, lying at an inconveniently long distance from each other, and the floor of a railway carriage, which has to be reached by ascending these steps, lying at a distance of about a man's height from the ground, one is obliged to perform a gymnastic feat in getting into a carriage attached to a train at Fuleswar. The difficulty which a man experiences in getting into a carriage at Fuleswar station within the short space of a minute for which a moving train is under the railway rules to stop at the station, specially when he has to travel in company with a number of children and females, is so great that he often thanks his stars if before the train moves away from the station he finds some of his fingers injured by being pressed against the carriage door. It is in consequence of the want of a railway platform at Fuleswar station that an attempt made by a passenger to get into a railway carriage is often attended with great danger to one's life and safety. We understand that the erection of a platform at the Fuleswar station for the use of passengers is absolutely necessary, and as the erection of such a platform is not likely to involve much expense, we earnestly hope the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company will confer a boon on the people by undertaking the work at an early date and thus removing one of the most keenly-felt wants of the railway travelling public.

35. (1) A correspondent writing to the *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 30th July calls attention to the need of improved

RATNAKAR,  
July 30th, 1904.

Railway complaints. accommodation for passengers at Maslandpur station on the Bengal Central Railway. This is an important station and serves villages 15 to 20 miles distant. The accommodation at present provided consists of a small, straw-covered shed containing one bench for the use of the passengers, who therefore generally have to wait on the open platform. This is inconvenient at all times, and specially when passengers have their families with them, or when they have missed one train and have to wait for the next.

(2) The same paper points out that the waiting-shed provided by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway at Asansol is not large enough for its purpose. This is seen specially at the time of festivals, when a large number of passengers crowd here.

(3) The same paper complains of the conduct of Mr. Gibbs, the Railway Sergeant at Asansol. The latrines and urinals provided at this station are not numerous enough to allow of a large number of people using them at the same time. Yet if anybody finds himself obliged to use the drain connected with the privy for the purpose, Mr. Gibbs is at once down on him. A passenger was subjected to ill-treatment in this way. It is said that Mr. Gibbs has a special interest in ill-treating passengers in this way without sufficient cause.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
August 1st, 1904.

36. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 31st July complains of the extortions to which passengers are subjected by the railway porters at Kolaghat station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. On the 16th July last, a porter carried a load of some four or five seers' weight to the steamer and demanded two annas for his job. He was supported by the contractor who supplies the porters. As the passenger refused to pay his extortionate demand, the contractor grossly abused him.

37. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st August draws attention to some complaints against the management of the East Indian Railway:—

DAILY HITAVADI,  
August 1st, 1904.

Complaints against the East Indian Railway.

(1) The timings of the local trains are altered almost every month, to the great inconvenience of the daily passengers. These alterations are made purely at the sweet will of the railway officials, and the convenience of the local travelling public is never consulted.

(2) The Company pays no attention to the comfort of its female passengers.

(3) Even a barbarous race would be ashamed of the partiality which the Company has begun to exhibit for its European employes at the expense of their native brethren. Only a few days ago Babu Triguna Charan Sen Gupta, a native ticket-collector of Howrah, was dismissed or otherwise heavily punished for doing what was only his duty. Since then two native officers at Chandernagore have been dismissed. The case of one of them is as



follows:—It is a general rule not to admit the public inside the ticket-office. At Chandernagore station there is a large number of Europeans who think it inconsistent with their dignity to await their turn for their tickets with the other native passengers; consequently they used to enter the ticket-room. The Station Master of Chandernagore recently received fresh orders to enforce more rigidly this rule to keep the public out of this room. Some days ago, however, a European lady entered the office to purchase her ticket. The official in charge (Ray Babu by name), seeing her inside the room, said, "Please go out." Evidently this was too much for the lady in question. She reported to the District Traffic Superintendent that she had been insulted. Ray Babu was immediately dismissed, without even being given an opportunity of making his defence. Thus was this poor man punished for simply doing his duty.

Compare the punishment meted out to Ray Babu with the punishment awarded to the offending guards in the recent Asansol outrage case. These rascals gave chase to some women with intent to outrage their modesty, and actually sat down on one of them. The only punishment they got was a fine of two days' pay each. And here is Ray Babu, who was simply trying to enforce the order of his superior authorities, punished with dismissal from the service. What better instance could one have of the sense of justice and fair play of the higher railway officials?

These cases of partiality towards European offenders are daily becoming more and more frequent, whether on the railways or on the steamers or in the police or in the courts of justice. Government has not yet been able to check the evil. The effect is that the masses in India are gradually becoming disaffected towards their rulers.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
July 29th, 1904.

38. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 29th July draws attention to the damage caused by the recent heavy rains to the roads in the mufassal. In the 24-Parganas specially the roads are quite impassable. The Basirhat-Baraset road is still unfit for wheeled traffic. The *kutchra* road from Deulia to Baduria Bandar suffers so much in the rainy season that even foot-traffic cannot pass over it.

The opening of a station at Deulia on the Basirhat Baraset Light Railway line will increase the importance of this road to the surrounding villages. For want of a proper system of drainage, the North Sherpur road, under the management of the Jadurhati Union Committee, has been damaged in many places and large holes have been caused. The condition of the road from Panji to Bagjola is still worse. Year before last the Basirhat Local Board made some slight repairs on it, and built a wooden bridge on that portion of it which lies between Panji and Jangalpur. The rains partly swept away the earth which supported the bridge; and the villagers had to make repairs at their own cost before the bridge was again safe to cross. Again, the contractors employed by the Board have only made the present condition of the road worse than before.

BASUMATI,  
July 30th, 1904.

39. In contradicting a complaint against a clerk of the *Iris* steamer, reported in a previous issue, (see Report on Native Papers of the 18th June, 1904, paragraph 8), a correspondent of the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 30th July says that the poor clerk was only a victim of a conspiracy made against him by the serang and the butler of the steamer. The respectable passengers on board the steamer on the day of the occurrence only saw a prostitute in it, but they knew nothing of the alleged commission of an outrage on her. It has been ascertained that no woman of the name Kusum Kumari lived in Jhawal or in any neighbouring village within the last seven or eight years.

NIHAR,  
2nd, August 1904.

40. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 2nd August is glad that the Kunjapur *khal* has been re-excavated this year, and suggests some other improvements in this connection which will conduce to the public convenience. For instance, the present width of the *khal* (about 15 or 20 feet) is not sufficient to drain away the water of the surrounding country very quickly. The re-excavation should have made the canal as wide as it was before. Again, as the channel of the *khal* is now deeper than before, crocodiles find easier entrance into it. For the safe crossing of



the stream, therefore, some bridges have become urgently necessary. At least three such are required, and their respective sites are as follow:—

- (1) Kamarghata, in Satkand mauza.
- (2) Chunpara at the junction of the Kunjapur *khal* and the Talpati *khal*. A bi-weekly *hât* or fair is held, here and there is also a local shrine hard by. Both these make this place a centre of attraction. A *pucca* bridge is required at some place near the Kunjapore *hât*. No wooden bridge here would last long, the traffic passing over it would be so heavy. For this is the way to the police-station, to the Registry office, to the Ajanbari Hat; and for some villagers it is also the way to the Courts at Contai.
- (3) The last place where a bridge is required is the place where the *dâk* runners of the Kalagachia and Haludbari post-office cross the *khal*. This place is also used by the general public for going to the Police office, the Registry office, etc.

The length of the whole *khal* is about seven or eight miles, and there are about 20 or 25 villages on the north side of it and some 50 or 60 villages on the south. The bridges proposed above are absolutely necessary for the convenience of these villages. If the cost of constructing them proves too heavy, only the one proposed at Kunjapur *hât* might be made *pucca* and the rest might be built of wood.

(h)—General.

41. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 14th July says that it has received some letters complaining of the conduct of Babu Akhoy Kumar Gupta, the Joint Sub-Registrar of Bir Kedar in Bogra.

SOLTAN,  
July 14th, 1904.

42. The *Gaurab* [Dacca] of the 21st July says that owing either to the timidity or incapacity of Mr. Rankin, the District Magistrate, Dacca has had to put up with great loss. Some among the big zamindars are usurping much of the executive and judicial powers of Government. The Magistrate, and other functionaries, flattered by invitations to the *nautches* and feasts given by big folks, are unable to stop such usurpation. Besides, much loss to public funds and oppression due to the exaction of bribes are being caused by the various offices under the control of the Magistrate. There are no means of ascertaining how much of the public funds is being looted in the Collectorate, the Magistracy, the Municipal and the District Board offices. The ferry clerk of the District Board has decamped after misappropriating from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000 in two years. This was due to the neglect of the Chairman. The Chairman has suspended the head-clerk for the offence of which he himself is clearly guilty. It is said that the criminal is living in Dacca town. His elder brother is the second clerk of the Magistrate's office. Yet the Magistrate failed to arrest the man.

GAURAB,  
July 21st, 1904.

The oppressions of the Municipal Secretary and the Health Officer exceeded all bounds, but the Magistrate-Chairman paid no heed to them. Fortunately Mr. Rankin has taken leave for some time, and Mr. Khaje Muhammad Yusuff, a relation of the present Nawab of Dacca, has been appointed as Chairman. The Secretary and the Health Officer have, at the suggestion of the new Chairman, thrown up their appointments in the Dacca Municipality and have left the place in order to avoid the consequences of their past conduct. It is to be hoped that Government will not, after this, hesitate to appoint natives as Chairmen of District Boards and Municipalities, as no political danger can possibly arise from such appointments.

43. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 26th July writes:—

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,  
July 26th, 1904.

How the people are faring. Whether our country and countrymen are faring ill or well will be made clear by a consideration of the following points:—(1) The partition of Bengal. (2) Increase of the *chaukidari* tax. (3) Withdrawal of the powers of Municipalities. (4) Inauguration of an illiberal policy in regard to education. (5) Abolition of the competition system and adoption of the system of nomination in making appointments in the public service. (6) Arbitrary conduct of Judges. (7)



Passing of the Official Secrets Act. (8) Refusal to accept old coins and the abnormal increase of the expenses of maintenance of families. (9) Increased ravages by plague, small-pox, cholera, and malaria. After considering these things who will say "we are doing well"?

CHARU MIHIR,  
July 26th, 1904.

44. Referring to the proposed creation of a new district in Mymensingh out of the subdivisions of Tangail and Jamalpur, the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 26th July suggests that the Madhupur forest belt situated on the east of Tangail subdivision, which is at present under the jurisdiction of the sadar subdivision, should be included in the new district. Unless this is done the new district will be very small in breadth; whereas if its eastern boundary is fixed at the Banar river, below Gabtali, both its length and its breadth would have due proportions. There is another reason in favour of this suggestion. As the zamindars who are owners of this forest will find the largest portions of their estates in the new district, it would put them to inconvenience and extra expense if their landed properties were to remain under different jurisdictions. The existing sadar subdivision is also too large and requires relief, and geographically the Madhupur jungle belongs to the Tangail subdivision.

As to the question of the site for the sadar station, it is said that Mr. Lee has suggested Jamalpur. This would put the people of the Tangail subdivision to all sorts of inconvenience. The District Magistrate is in favour of some place under the jurisdiction of Gopalpur thana, south of Jamalpur. This suggestion commends itself to the paper. No sadar station would be safe if situated on the Jumna, whose current is so violent. The Atai is the only river in this quarter with a perennial stream; and some high piece of ground on its banks would be the best site for the sadar town. It is said that the District Magistrate once selected some place near Madhupur, east of Gopalpur, for this purpose. It is true that this place is not liable to be submerged in the rainy season, but it is very unhealthy. Popular choice would favour a place where plenty of water would be available.

CHARU MIHIR,  
July 26th, 1904.

45. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 26th July observes that, in view of the great increase of gambling in Mymensingh, it has long been asking Government to extend the provisions of the Gambling Act to this district. What is to be regretted is that Government, which makes so many laws in utter defiance of public opinion, should be unwilling to pass a particular law or extend it to a particular place in compliance with public opinion. The extension of the Gambling Act to Mymensingh cannot harm Government in any way, nor will it be the means of conferring any new rights on the inhabitants. It will only benefit the cause of public peace and safety.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA,  
July 27th, 1904.

46. Referring to the Government notification stating that only Europeans or Eurasians will be permitted to appear at the next competitive examination for filling up two vacancies in the Opium Department, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 27th July observes:—

Is this the outcome of the famous Proclamation of the late Empress? It is a good rule that he should get a post who is best fitted for it. The impartial British Government thinks itself just. But what impression would be produced on the minds of the Indians when they see this preference of colour shown in the every-day acts of Government? Are there no Hindus or Musalmans available in the whole country who are fit to be candidates at this examination?

SANJIVANI,  
July 28th, 1904.

47. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 28th July says that although abler men were available in India, yet Mr. Nelson Anandale, B.A., was appointed as Deputy Superintendent of the Indian Museum. An eminent naturalist like Dr. Sasibhusan Mitra is seldom to be met with in India, and yet a foreigner was appointed to the post, and Dr. Mitra was not given any post in connection with the Museum. The writer asks, How long will such partialities continue? It is not merit but only the white skin that is favoured. The sight is indeed nauseating.



48. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th July writes as follows:—

Partiality as regards appointments to the Government service.

One or two examples will suffice to show with what sort of honesty and large-heartedness the English govern India. The other day an advertisement appeared in the *Calcutta Gazette* to the effect that an examination of candidates would be held in February next for filling up two vacant posts in the Opium Department, but that only Europeans and Eurasians would be eligible for the examination. This is the honesty and fairness of British rule, which is so much boasted of by Englishmen! Why does not Government take natives in the Opium Department? Is it not because the Indians are black and Government wants to support worthless white men? Again, the Chief Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta has advertised for four apprentices to be taken in the Calcutta Police Court. But the advertisement says that Musalmans will be preferred to Hindus, and that any Hindu offering himself as a candidate must have passed at least the Entrance Examination. What is the object of drawing such a distinction between Hindus and Musalmans? We have no objection to see our Musalman brethren more largely appointed to Government service, but what we want is that there should be a fair field for all alike, irrespective of creed or caste.

HITAVADI,  
July 29th, 1904.

49. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the

A complaint against the Superintendent of the Government Central Press at Calcutta.

27th July says that formerly the clerks in the Government Central Press at Calcutta could not be punished with fines. Imposing fines is against the standing orders of Government, and there is a circular by the Viceroy on the subject which is still in force. But with the advent of the new Superintendent from the Jail Press the fine system has been revived. This is not all. On Friday last a new order was issued requiring the clerks of the Book Department to work from 6 in the morning to 7 in the evening, i.e., for 11 hours. If necessary, they may have half-an hour's leave in the interval. It is doubtful if any other office in the British Empire is barbarous enough to require its employes to work for 11 hours at a stretch. Even the Factory Act does not permit coolies to be worked more than 8 hours a day. Perhaps the Superintendent may have issued the order mistaking the office for the Presidency Jail. It is to be hoped that this cruel order will soon be withdrawn.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA,  
July 27th, 1904.

50. In an article on the Superintendent of the Burma Government Press,

The Superintendent of the Burma Government Press.

the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th July gives detailed accounts of the cases reported in a previous issue [see Report on Native Papers of the 25th June 1904, paragraph 35, heads (5) and (10)]. Mr. Sanderson has dismissed a clerk on Rs. 30 for a very slight offence. In spite of the Superintendent's opposition auditing has begun in the Press office from May last. But in the meantime one of his favourite subordinates, Abdul Rasid, who used to keep the attendance register of the Press, has resigned. Very serious charges had been brought against this man, but Mr. Sanderson did nothing in the matter. The man was so much in the good graces of the Superintendent that when he got a temporary promotion his own nominee was appointed to his post by Mr. Sanderson.

HITAVADI,  
July 29th, 1904.

The following cases occurred in connection with the work of the attendance clerk:—

(1) The *Saheb* had ordered that a certain *daftari* should be paid at the rate of annas 8 per diem, but the attendance clerk debited annas 10 against the name of this man. The money thus embezzled was realised by Mr. Sanderson by fining the attendance clerk and another man implicated in the case.

(2) A man named Kamu was absent for five or six consecutive days in the month of April. But he was marked "present" in the attendance register and was even allowed the remuneration for "overtime" work. In the Press jamadar's attendance book, however, he was marked "absent." Mr. Sanderson threatened his favourite with prosecution and there the matter ended.

(3) Another absentee named Abdul Manna was similarly marked "present" by the attendance clerk, and the matter was similarly hushed up. In course of time these cases got wind and it became known that the Press accounts were going to be audited. And immediately after the audit began.



SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA,  
July 27th, 1904.

Abdul Rasid resigned on the pretext of the inadequacy of his pay. Why did Mr. Sanderson accept his resignation in the face of the above circumstances?

51. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 27th July learns that the Lieutenant-Governor recently paid a flying visit to Chittagong. The visit was made at night, when the citizens were asleep, the streets were without traffic, and the municipal lamps were still burning. His Honour inspected the harbour and left the town before daybreak. It is conjectured that the object of the visit was to gather materials for a project to annex Chittagong to Assam and thereafter to make Chittagong the principal town of that province, and also to improve the harbour generally. His Honour's visit has only strengthened the popular impression that Chittagong is to be annexed to Assam. But there is no sufficient reason to think so, for the Lieutenant-Governor in his Comilla speech hinted at the creation of a new province in East Bengal.

JYOTI,  
July 28th, 1904.

The experimental farm near Chittagong town.

52. A correspondent of the *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 28th July says that recently he and some other persons went to see the Government experimental farm, two miles from Chittagong town and were sorely disappointed with what they saw there. The farm was overgrown with grass and shrubs, and so much neglected that none of the crops grown on it proved successful.

JYOTI.

Complaint against the sadar post office of Chittagong.

53. The same paper says that the local sadar post office is in a disorganised condition. It is a common complaint that stamps are not sold before 11 A.M. Complaints made to the Post Master and to the Superintendent of Post Offices have hitherto proved ineffectual.

JYOTI.

The proposed road-cess revaluation in Chittagong.

54. The same paper learns that the local authorities have reported to Government in favour of a revaluation of the road-cess. The existing valuation was made about 28 years ago, when the price of corn locally was taken at Rs. 20 per hundred *aris*. The cess was fixed at the rate of two pice per rupee for every tenant, and at a rate of one anna to two annas and-a-half for each talukdar, the latter rate varying with the assessee's income. The price of corn has now increased, in some cases reaching up to Rs. 30 or Rs. 35. It is true that at places near Cox's Bazar and Satkania, the price is so low as Rs. 17 or Rs. 18. But it is not so cheap in other parts of the district, at Patiya or Raojan for example. Thus if the amount of the cess payable in each case is now submitted to revision it may result in an increase in some cases. But the chances of a decrease in some other cases are no less. The last survey and the cyclone have harassed the people enough already. Whether it is in the survey, or in the fixing of the *jama*, or in the realising of the costs, there has been a revaluation—"a revolution"—all along the line. Each of these implies the appointment of a swarm of amla and peons, who fatten at the expense of the poor tax-payer. If Burma had not provided food for Chittagong, this district would by this time have been converted into a desert. If this revaluation is undertaken, oppression of the people would be a hundred times greater than the increase in the proceeds of the cess. As this cess is for their good, to provide roads and ghats for their use, they would prefer their roads to remain as they are, rather than incur the risk of the many oppressions that would attend any attempt at improvement. It is to be humbly hoped that Government will wait for some time longer.

SANJIVANI,  
July 28th, 1904.

Mr. Marindin, Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division.

55. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 28th July has an article under the heading "Acceptance of *dalis* by Government officers," in which it says:—

Our article on the subject of acceptance of *dalis* and *rasad* by Mr. Marindin, Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division, has surprised many persons. Many were under the impression that it was no offence to accept *dalis* and *rasad*. In some departments it is not illegal to take *rasad*, but the law distinctly lays down that the price of the articles supplied should be paid. Let Government enquire whether Mr. Marindin paid the price of his *rasad*. If an enquiry is instituted, matters will come to light that will astound Government. If Government does not stop the oppressions that are now committed in connection with *rasad*, people will lose all faith in their rulers.



Very few are the officials who do not take *dalis*. Our countrymen have the idea that it is not an illegal act to offer *dalis*. To remove the misconception of persons who offer *dalis*, as well as of those who accept them, we publish some sections of the law and some orders of Government on this subject.

We have shown from the account books of Sumeru Giri Gossain, zamindar of Rangpur, that *dalis* containing valuable articles were presented to Mr. Marindin. The Government of India has laid down that "a few flowers or fruits and articles of inappreciable value" may be accepted as *dalis*. But even as regards the acceptance of articles of inappreciable value the Government of India says "even these trifling presents should be discouraged."

Some persons accept presents on the pretext that by refusing them they would give offence to persons offering them. In such cases Government directs that "they must be delivered up to Government."

We again ask Sir Andrew Fraser to enquire what amount of *dalis* and *rasad* were taken from the Rangpur zamindars by different Government officers.

56. The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has sanctioned, says the *Hitavadi*

The proposed transfer of the head-quarters of the Rajshahi Commissioner.

[Calcutta] of the 29th July, the transfer of the office of the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division from Jalpaiguri to Darjeeling. Mr. Marindin, the present Commissioner, is very fond of Darjeeling,

and this circumstance has, most probably, much to do with the Lieutenant-Governor's order. The matter has, however, greatly alarmed the inhabitants of the division, because Darjeeling is a long way from their homes and living is very costly there. It is hoped that His Honour will reconsider the matter.

HITAVADI,  
July 29th, 1904.

57. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th July observes that the

DAILY HITAVADI,  
July 29th, 1904.

The new mining rules.

Government Notification No. 1359-41-3, dated the 30th April 1904, publishing certain rules relating to the working of mines in this country, is calculated to promote the interests of the European proprietor of mines at the expense of those of his Indian competitors. July 30th was fixed as the last date up to which objections would be received; but, considering the grave interests involved, some later date, such as September 30th, should have been laid down. One of the rules published under the notification provides for the taking out of permits. The Chief Inspector will be able at pleasure to compel any manager who has a permit to take out a second-class certificate. These permits are to be renewed every year. What harassment this yearly renewal means, everyone who has an experience of the renewal of the Arms Act licenses will know. Nor is this all. The permit, "may be cancelled with or without cause assigned at any time."

It is clear from the attitude of the authorities that the majority of the managers of the native-owned mines will obtain only second-class certificates. A manager with a second-class certificate will indeed be permitted to supervise more than one mine, but the number of labourers who will be allowed to work underground at one and the same time under his control will be limited to a hundred and fifty. A detailed examination of the internal arrangements for the working of a coal-pit, however, shows that at least fifty men are constantly required to work underground, whose work is only subsidiary and who do not actively assist in the production. Out of the limit of a hundred and fifty imposed by the rules, therefore, this leaves only a hundred who can actually undertake digging and other similar operations. Their total output of coal, allowing for Sundays and other holidays, cannot be over thirty or thirty-five tons a day. The collieries whose output is so limited find their customers only in the native oil-mills and flour-mills, the Railway Companies generally refusing to give out their contract for the supply of coal to such small concerns.

Another point is that a colliery with the increase of its business requires an increasing number of labourers to work it. If it becomes necessary to employ more than a hundred and fifty coolies, a new manager possessing a first-class certificate will have to be appointed. And the rules for the examination of the managers have been so framed that it will be difficult for natives to get first-class certificates at all. And native mine-owners cannot afford to employ European managers on high salaries. All these things therefore point to the ultimate extinction of the native mine-owner with his small capital.



BANGAVASI,  
July 30th, 1904.

58. After announcing that the Secretary of State has granted a special pension of Rs. 250 to Babu Chandra Nath Bose, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 30th July observes:—

Special pension to Babu Chandra Nath Bose, late Bengali Translator to Government.

Mr. Bose is well known as the late Bengali Translator to Government, as a thoughtful writer, and as the author of "Sakuntala-tatwa" and other works. Mr. Bose used to discharge his duties with great ability. We are indeed glad that Government has granted this special pension to him. May God give him a long life to enjoy his pension, and to devote himself to the service of his mother-tongue.

RATNAKUR,  
July 30th, 1904.

59. The *Ratnakur* [Asansol] of the 30th July points out the need of a public hospital at Asansol. The place has a pretty large population, and the number of its poor is not certainly small. These people are put to the greatest inconvenience when they are ill for the want of a charitable hospital. The Railway Company's hospital is reserved for railway employes. At Kalna there is already one such institution maintained at the expense of the Maharaja of Burdwan, and yet Government intends to build a second one at that town. The need of relief at Asansol is more urgent and should have a prior claim on Government.

NAVAYUG,  
July 30th, 1904.

60. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 30th July has the following:—

The case of Mr. Rolt.

Mr. A. C. Rolt is the Manager of the Khagra Wards' Estate in Purnea. He has been compelled to resign his post for being involved in unlawful money transactions to the value of over a lakh of rupees, and Government has instituted proceedings against him. Nowadays Government shows a marked predilection for Eurasians as managers of estates both under private management and Court of Wards' management. But experience shows that it is this class of men who are adepts in embezzlement and like deeds. The great increase in the number of offences of this description by Europeans is specially attributable to the fact that the offenders are let off with nominal punishments.

Take for instance the case of Mr. Ross, the Commissioner in the Sundarbans. He embezzled about Rs. 50,000 of the public money and was punished with 18 months' imprisonment. But his experience of the hardships of jail life was confined to reading the books of the jail library.

Mr. Nicoll, Assistant Secretary to the Port Commissioners, similarly made away with Rs. 1,200 and got off with only a month's imprisonment. Then in the most recent case, the accomplice of Mr. Cowie, the Government Solicitor, was sentenced for a term of four years at the High Court Sessions. As for Mr. Cowie himself, it is true that he is being brought over from Western Australia. But shrewd lawyer as he is, he will probably manage to get off owing to some technical flaw. And then perhaps the European and Anglo-Indian Defence Association will move Government to grant him compensation. There is no knowing the caprices of these Europeans!

DACCA GAZETTE,  
18 August, 1904.

61. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 1st August thanks the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for not having entirely disregarded, on the occasion of his recent visit to Barisal, the prayer made by the local People's Association to have the inhabitants of the district

The Lieutenant-Governor and the disarmament of the Backergunge district.

freed from the operations of the Arms Act. Since they were deprived of their fire-arms, these people have been the victims of depredations of wild animals. His Honour said to the effect that it had been necessary to disarm the people in order to put a stop to the frequent occurrence of murders by fire-arms in the district. This is a strange sort of argument. It is the duty of the police to arrest murderers and bring them to punishment. But when the Backergunge police failed to trace out the murderers in the district, its sin was visited on the inhabitants and they were deprived of their fire-arms. However that may be, His Honour is to be thanked for the concession, however slight, which he has made and the word of hope which he has given to the people in the matter.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

GUNRAB,  
July 21st, 1904.

62. The *Gaurab* [Dacca] of the 21st July continues its observations on the Bengal Tenancy Act (Report on Native Papers of the 30th July 1904, paragraph 44):—

Suggestions for the amendment of Act VIII of 1885.

Section 50.—The presumption by the Court that the tenure-holder or raiyat has held at a fixed rent or rate of rent from the time of the permanent



settlement, if it is proved that the rent has not been changed during twenty years, is most unwise. Most landlords do not possess records from the time of the permanent settlement and cannot therefore prove what the rent was at that time. Many a landlord, either from sympathy with the tenants or because the other co-sharers in the zamindari could not come together, has not enhanced the rent during twenty years, and is it for this that they are not to be allowed to have an enhancement of the rent? But the landlord who encroached upon the tenants' resources by enhancing the rent during the preceding twenty years is allowed a further enhancement! Such a provision forces the landlord and the tenant to resort to the forging of false documents and to the manufacturing of false evidence. It should be remembered that the permanent settlement was made not with the raiyats but with the landlords and the sunset law does not apply to the former. This section should be altogether omitted.

*Section 52.*—Formerly the measurement of lands was faulty owing to the ignorance and incapacity of the villagers by whom it was carried out. The raiyats also bribed the *amans* and thereby managed to get their rents reduced by shewing a diminution in the quantity of the land in the measurement records. The lands in the possession of the raiyats in excess of what they are entitled to should be regarded as stolen property, and they should be dispossessed of those lands, which should be adjudged to be the property of the landlord. The raiyat who held possession of those excess lands should have the preference in their settlement, provided he undertakes to pay the same rent and the same amount of landlords' fee as may be offered by outsiders, the amounts of the rent and fee being ascertained in the manner in which a sale by auction is held.

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

63. Referring to the *sanad* recently presented to the Maharaja of Tippera by the Lieutenant-Governor in open *darbar*, the *Pratinidhi* [Calcutta] of the 20th July observes:—

The British Government and the Tippera Raj.

PRATINIDHI,  
July 20th, 1904.

The presentation of this *sanad* marks a new era in the history of the Tippera Raj. Irresponsible people whose vision is restricted might express their rejoicings at it. But every thoughtful man will only shed silent tears of regret at the fate which has come over the Raj. It is not necessary to point out more explicitly what the relations of the British Government with the Tippera Raj formerly were, and what shape they have gradually assumed, and how the Raj family is gradually losing its high state.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

64. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 26th July writes of the havoc caused by the recent overflowing of the Damodar. It is no exaggeration to say that many people have been rendered homeless. The flood-water has deposited sand in many places, in others the soil has become saturated with salt. Between these two causes, the fields have been rendered unfit for future cultivation. The villages of Sadipur, Kishnapur, Devipur, Boro, etc., have specially suffered in this way. The Engineers of the Damodar Embankment Division usually confine their tours of inspection to one or two visits in summer or winter. It is necessary that they should see things now and devise a remedy.

The overflowing of the Damodar.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
July 26th, 1904.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

65. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 28th July writes as follows:—  
The attitude of Government, especially of Lord Curzon's Government, towards us has brought the conviction home to our mind that we can have no salvation from our misery and poverty unless we take to improving our arts and commerce. It is not we alone that have been driven to this conclusion; many Englishmen, who are friends of India and Government itself, have been telling us the same thing. What Messrs. F. Birdwood and O'Connor have said in this connection deserves our earnest attention.

The question of the improvement of native arts and commerce.

SANJIVANI,  
July 28th, 1904.



It must be admitted that the commerce of India has largely increased as compared with what existed some time ago. The question is: What are the obstacles to the improvement of Indian arts and commerce? There is ample money in our country, but when some business is to be started the necessary capital cannot be found. A certain class of people prefer hoarding up their money or purchasing Government securities with it to investing it in some business. Another class of men spend lakhs in *nautches* and other amusements, and in giving presents to high Government officers, but would not pay even Rs. 50 in aid of a business which cannot improve for want of a small capital. As to the importation of foreign capital, it should be remarked that foreign capitalists are ignorant of the real state of things in this country, and money cannot therefore be easily obtained from them. One principal obstacle to the success of business speculations in our country is the extreme poverty of the masses. Two-thirds of the populations of India are agriculturists, and they can hardly afford to have two meals a day. What business can succeed in the midst of a people who can hardly maintain themselves and who wear rags to maintain decency? The middle class people are also not well off. It cannot therefore be expected that in India any set of articles will command a large sale. Another obstacle is the ignorance and conservatism of the people of India. The caste system is another great obstacle. Government must maintain free trade in this country. If therefore we mean to stand in competition with foreigners, scientific education must be imparted to our people. We should therefore go to foreign countries for scientific and technical education. Our national characteristic is that we do nothing thoroughly and we therefore fail in our undertakings, for we have not the perseverance to stand failures.

HITAVADI,  
July 29th, 1904.

66. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th July writes as follows:—

Lord Curzon's Guildhall speech. We are disappointed with Lord Curzon's Guildhall speech, in which he sought to convince an English audience of the usefulness of India to the British Empire by stating that she supplied labour to Uganda and other parts of the Empire and soldiers to fight its wars in China and Somaliland. Any statement on his part regarding the prospects of those poorly-paid Indian soldiers, who are ever ready to sacrifice their lives for the furtherance of the interests of the Empire, would have been received by us with real satisfaction. We would have better appreciated his generosity towards the Indians if he had discussed the subject of the harassment and bad treatment to which the Indian cooly is subjected in the British Colonies. The Indian soldier conquers with his life blood and the Indian cooly clears the unhealthy jungles and helps the exploitation of the conquered land, but when that land begins to flourish in trade and commerce the Indian is driven out of it and forbidden to partake of the fruits of his labour. Our generous rulers think that 5 or 6 rupees are enough for a nigger. Lord Curzon referred to the services rendered by the Indian soldier and the Indian cooly to the British Empire, but he refrained, most probably from a sense of shame, from making a reference to the prosperity which the wealth of India had been instrumental in bringing to his mother-country, England herself. Why did he not refer to the acts of repression by which he himself had sought to throw obstacles in the path of the prosperity of the Indians? In the course of the speech Lord Curzon said, "The Eastern could be ruled from the heart." Was it in pursuance of this principle that he passed the Universities Act, the Official Secrets Act, and other shameful measures in the teeth of the unanimous opposition of the Indians? In Western politics difference between profession and practice may not be blameworthy, but does not Lord Curzon know that from an Eastern people such conduct evokes feelings quite different from respect and reverence? Referring to the Tibet affair Lord Curzon said, "Fears regarding Tibet were not illusory but imminent and real." But the Blue Book and the observations made by Sir Henry Cotton and others on the subject show that this statement on Lord Curzon's part has no foundation in fact! The truth is that Lord Curzon launched on this expedition in order to make a name for himself at the cost of the Indians, and it was to give a covering to this questionable intention that such charges as being in league with Russia, breaking the terms of a treaty, etc., were brought against the Tibetans. Charges equally false were brought against the Burmese on the eve of the conquest of Burma. Matters would have been quite different if Tibet had been strong enough to resist the force of British arms.



Change of climate and surroundings has been unable to produce any effect on Lord Curzon so far as India is concerned. Woe to her if he returns to her bosom.

67. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 30th July is sorry that Lord

BHARAT MITRA,  
July 30th, 1904.

A suit against the Nawab of  
Dacca.

Curzon's love of grandeur is making the native *raias* bankrupt. His Delhi Darbar has impoverished many native chiefs, of whom the Nawab of Dacca may be regarded as one. On the occasion of Lord Curzon's recent visit to Dacca the town was decorated at the expense of the Nawab Bahadur. Messrs. Whiteaway, Laidlaw & Co., who undertook the work on contract, have charged the Nawab Rs. 11,000 for it. For the recovery of the sum a law suit has been instituted in the Calcutta High Court against the Nawab.

68. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 2nd August writes as follows:—

TRIPURA  
HITAISHI,  
2nd August, 1904.

"The English have found us  
out."

The English have now found out of what stuff the Indians are made. At first they did not quite understand our nature and, by mistake, treated us respectfully, but now they have corrected themselves. They now invariably reject our prayers. The proposal to divide Bengal has evoked universal opposition throughout the Province, but the authorities seem to care nothing for it. Matters would surely have been different if they had really believed that the Bengalis can support their words by action. But they have found out the Bengalis. They know that if a *feringi*, through whose veins perhaps a thousandth part of a drop of English blood runs, beats a respectable rich Bengali in the presence of hundreds of his countrymen, not one of them will raise his hand to strike a blow at the *feringi*. The English know that there is no unity, no community of feelings among us. Englishmen are frequently seen to pull respectable Indians by the ear. This propensity on the part of white men to pull Indians by the ear would long have disappeared if the latter had known how to pay them back in their own coin. Our rulers levy taxes and make laws. The Indians oppose them, but to no effect. But if they could support their opposition by action, measures like the Universities Act would never be passed. The authorities know that there is no life in our agitations. They have found out that we do not do what we say, and that we are skilful only in speechification.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

69. Referring to the Mansingpatna dacoity case, the *Utkaldipika*

UTKALDIPIKA.  
July 23rd, 1904.

The Mansingpatna dacoity case.

[Cuttack] of the 23rd July draws the attention of the authorities to certain faulty practice and procedure adopted by judicial officers in the progress of that case. The confession of Banamali, one of the accused in that case, was recorded by a Deputy Magistrate not in his Court but in an out-of-the-way police-station in Cuttack, whither the Deputy Magistrate was requested to proceed. It did not strike the Deputy Magistrate that the accused was under police influence and that his statements were to be received with care and caution. It may be that the Deputy Magistrate was aware of what he was doing and was unwilling to offend the police, whose head, the District Superintendent, had great influence over the District Magistrate, his own immediate superior. The separation of the Executive from the Judicial, as proposed by many, may, to a certain extent, check this evil, and there cannot be a thorough cure unless the judiciary learn to inhale the pure air of independent judgment and action.

70. Referring to the Committee, appointed under the auspices of the

UTKALDIPIKA.

The Committee of the Orissa  
Association.

Orissa Association, to give effect in Orissa to the intentions of the Legislature in enacting section 172 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the same paper advises the parties in serious police cases to keep the Committee informed of the circumstances under which attempts are made to send innocent men to the gallows. The Committee will examine the circumstances in detail, and if convinced that any innocent man is in peril, will take steps to get him out of the difficulty. The Committee will in no case reveal the names of persons who might have supplied information leading to the release of the innocent.



Whether the information be correct or not, the Committee will be bound by honour not to give out the names of the informers. The writer observes that if people act disinterestedly, the Committee will be a great help on the side of security and order, and that it is the duty of the public to keep touch with the Committee and encourage it in its disinterested and philanthropic work.

UTKALDIPKA.

71. Referring to the success of Mr. Birendranath De in the St. John's College, Cambridge, as evidenced by the results

Lord Curzon on Indians in high posts.

of the first yearly examination held in that College, the same paper supports its contemporary of the *Medini Bandhab* in the latter's remark that the policy of Lord Curzon to exclude the Indians from the higher branches of Government service in India, on the ground that the Indians are incompetent to hold such posts, is selfish and short-sighted, and does not sustain his reputation as a brilliant statesman.

UTKALDIPKA.

A donation to the Beadon Madrasa at Balasore.

72. The same paper is glad to learn that the proprietor of Kanika has made a donation of Rs. 100 to the building fund of the Beadon Madrasa in Balasore.

UTKALDIPKA.

The health of Cuttack town.

73. The same paper states that the health of Cuttack town is good.

UTKALDIPKA.

74. The same paper says that there was slight rain in the last week and there were fifteen feet of water on the bed of the river Kathjuri.

The rain.

UTKALDIPKA.

75. The Jajpur correspondent of the same paper states that a novel type of cattle plague is creating havoc in the Jajpur subdivision of the Cuttack district. A large number of cattle in that subdivision were attacked by the disease and they all died.

Cattle plague in the Jajpur subdivision.

UTKALDIPKA.

76. The Jagatsingpur correspondent of the same paper states that the resident of mauzas Kadapara, Haldidihi, etc., in Jagatsingpur in Cuttack, are terrorised every night by thieves and robbers, who oppress them with impunity. The police is unable to bring the offenders to justice. The correspondent draws the attention of the authorities to the same.

Theft and dacoity in some villages in the Cuttack district.

UTKALDIPKA.

77. Correspondents of the same paper state that the embankment of the Kathjuri river near Simulighai has been breached and that, as a consequence, crops in villages Rontrapur, Gobindpur, Denli, Bentkar, and Chanduli have been washed away and the paddy fields covered with sand. What is more to be regretted is that the raiyats had made an attempt to fill up the breach by private subscription, but before the work was completed, a sudden flood in the river Kathjuri washed away the products of their labour, making the gap still wider and deeper. The correspondents hope that the authorities will save the people of the aforesaid villages from imminent ruin and danger.

A breach in the embankment of the Kathjuri river.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
July 2 st, 1904.

78. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 21st July publishes a letter from its Dehurda correspondent in which it is

The floods in the Suvarnarekha and Chitai rivers.

stated that high floods in the Suvarnarekha and Chatai rivers have done great damage to property and crops in villages in paganas Napo, Sahabander, and Kamarda in the Baliapal thana of the Balasore district. It is stated that paddy plants have been washed away and houses thrown down, so that many are both without home and without food. This is terrible in the rainy weather.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

79. The same paper thanks Mr. Egerton, the Magistrate-Collector of

Relief to sufferers from flood.

Balasore, for his promptitude of action and resourcefulness of mind in despatching rice, *dal*, flattened rice, opium, and tobacco, together with rupees one hundred in ready cash, to the afflicted parts of the Balasore district suffering from the effects of high floods for distribution among the sufferers. Mr. Egerton visited those parts in person, and after superintending the relief operations has returned to head-quarters, leaving the Customs head-clerk and the Sadar kanungo in charge of those works on the spot.



The Maharaja of Mayurbhanj's donation to the Beadon Madrassa at Balasore.

80. The same paper thanks the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj for an additional donation of rupees five hundred to the Beadon Madrassa in Balasore.

SANVAD VAHIKA.

The death of a pious and charitable Uriya lady mourned.

81. The same paper mourns the death of Mrs. Das, a Uriya lady of Balasore, who had devoted herself to piety and charity after the death of her distinguished husband, the late Radharaman Das, and who was a constant friend and support of the poor and helpless.

SANVAD VAHIKA.

#### ASSAM PAPERS.

Publication of part of the Assam Gazette in Bengali.

82. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 21st July observes that hitherto the *Assam Gazette* used to be published in English only. But recently the Chief Commissioner has directed that all resolutions, circulars, and other official papers, which it is considered desirable that the public should know, should be translated into the vernaculars and published in the Gazette. The first Gazette which contained a Bengali portion was issued on the 16th July last. There can be no doubt that Mr. Fuller deserves the heartiest thanks of the public for this concession to their convenience.

PARIDASAK,  
July 21st, 1904.

83. The same paper points out that the timing of the trains at the Longai station on the Assam-Bengal Railway should be changed, so as to allow of longer halts at that station. The place is an important one, and many females get in and out of the trains there.

PARIDASAK.

Complaint against the Overseer of Karimganj.

84. The same paper complains of the conduct of Babu Sanat Kumar Banerjee, the newly-appointed Overseer at Karimganj. Immediately on his arrival he severely punished the chaukidar at Atgram dak bungalow for a trivial offence. He recommended the abolition of the posts of the three road muharrirs employed by the Karimganj Local Board. The Board under pressure from the Chairman adopted the suggestion, though only a short time ago they had thought the work of these officers so important as to have increased their pay. The question now is can the Overseer and the Sub-Overseer between themselves manage to do the work done by these muharrirs? The experience of their work already shown does not give much hope of it, for the inspection of such a petty road as the Churkhai-Dighirpar Road in June last took the Overseer Babu full eleven days, and though he used a boat when out on inspection, he did not scruple to charge Rs. 25 as horse-allowance from the Board. It has been ascertained that he did not own a horse up to the 11th July last.

PARIDASAK.

As other instances of his injustice it is stated that a muharrir built a bridge on the Churkhai-Dighirpar Road spoken of above. The Overseer allowed him to charge at the rate of 6 annas per foot only. And yet another of his favourite contractors, who built another bridge, was allowed to charge at the rate of 8 annas a foot, although this work was inferior to the former one. The contractors whose work last year gave satisfaction have not been re-employed this year; the contracts have been given out to the Overseer's own favourites; it is also said that he is in the habit of receiving hospitality from certain contractors.

85. The same paper publishes the following correspondence in English:—  
The public are pouring their awful censures upon the Head-Master of the Sunamganj Jubilee High School for the results of the last Entrance Examination, because, I think, this is the first time the school has got a blank in the pass list of the successful candidates.

PARIDASAK.

If the internal affairs of the school be brought to light, the faults of the Head-Master will be a little mitigated. Were it not for the Head-Master the teaching staff could be said to have been rotten to the core.

A considerable portion of the staff is composed of teachers who have barely a knowledge equal to the matriculated standard of our University, and the rest are fresh from college who have got a very scanty knowledge in the art of teaching.



According to the new scheme, experienced graduates with knowledge of the Kindergarten system are required to teach the boys. But the salaries the teachers draw are not sufficient to engage well-qualified teachers. I wonder no heed is paid by the authorities to the fact. So the education in the junior classes ends with A, B, C.

When the boys go to the higher classes, the Head-Master cannot make up the deficiencies in a year or two. He, even in the vacations, goes on with the first class from 10 to 6. But his labour is not adequately repaid.

The results of the school have always depended on the exertion of the boys. So, I hope the Director of Public Instruction, Assam, will graciously take the matter into consideration and interfere with the proceedings of the school alone.

SILEHAR,  
July 20th, 1904.

86. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 20th July demands an inquiry into the conduct of Babu Ambika Charan Das, Sub-Inspector of Schools at Karimganj. It appears that the last *Assam Gazette* published a list of text-books for the use of schools in Assam; but the new books were not to be introduced at once; the old books were to continue to be studied pending further orders. But Ambika Babu insisted on all the schools under his jurisdiction buying the new books, and indicated a particular person (Babu Rohini Chandra Chakravart, a teacher in the school at Varan) from whom the books would be obtainable. As there are two well-known book-shops existing at the town of Karimganj, there can be only one reason why people were compelled to cross the river and go all the way to Varan to buy their books. After the students had all brought their books, the Deputy Inspector of Schools (Padmanath Babu) came on his tour of inspection to the town, and announced that the new books were not to be studied this year at all. Thus Ambika Babu made the students buy the books simply to put some money into the pocket of Rohini Babu.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

*The 6th August 1904.*